

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS P.O. BOX 1715 BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

December 6, 2007

CENAB-OP-NN

SUBJECT: Construction of Dredged Material Placement Site, Wicomico County, Maryland

PUBLIC NOTICE CENAB-OP-NN-08-01

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1323 and 1344) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pending availability of funds the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to construct a new dredged material placement site in Wicomico County, Maryland.

The proposed work consists of constructing a diked upland placement site to contain dredged material from future maintenance dredging along certain sections of the Federal navigation channel in Wicomico River, Wicomico County, Maryland (Maps 1 and 2). This site is about 38 acres in size, currently wooded, and is owned by Wicomico County. Prior to dike construction, the County will clear the site leaving a buffer of trees along the perimeter. It is anticipated that this placement site will be for long term use.

A review of data generated for preparation of the Environmental Assessment, including a preliminary 404(b)(1) evaluation, indicates that no significant environmental impacts are expected and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation addressing the environmental issues of the placement site construction is being prepared. The proposed placement site construction complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program. The proposed project will also comply with the Endangered Species Act, and as such, will not have any adverse affect on endangered species.

Construction of the project is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Historical Trust; Wicomico County, Maryland.

The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in this public notice will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife values, general environmental concerns, economics, historic values, navigation, energy needs, recreation, safety, water quality, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The work will not be accomplished unless it is found to be in the public interest.

CENAB-OP-NN

SUBJECT: Construction of Dredged Material Placement Site, Wicomico River, Wicomico County, Maryland

Designation of the proposed placement site for dredged material associated with this Federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of the proposed placement site, any potential impairment to the maintenance of navigation including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which would result from the failure to use the placement site will also be considered.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the construction of this dredged material placement site may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity. The environmental documentation for this project is anticipated to be an Environmental Assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact, which will be available upon request. Questions regarding the content of this notice may be brought to the attention of Ms. Heather Batchelder at (410) 962-3687.

Please communicate the foregoing information regarding the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and whom not being known to this office, did not receive a copy of this notice.

Christina E. Correale Chief, Operations Division

Christma To. Concale

Enclosure Maps 1 & 2



